

HB854 Statewide Housing Study

Program Fact Sheet

REACH Housing Counseling and Education

Virginia Housing

Note: This fact sheet was created in October 2021. Program details can change regularly. For the most up-to-date information on this program and a program contact, please visit the link below:

[Link to program website](#)

01 Program goals

The Resources Enabling Affordable Community Housing (REACH) Counseling Grant was developed to offset the reduction of federal grant funds to housing counseling agencies. The funding provides support for individual counseling or group education/classes regarding the following topics: Pre-Purchase/Home Buying, Resolving or Preventing Mortgage Delinquency or Default, Non-Delinquency Post-Purchase, and Locating, Securing or Maintaining Residence in Rental Housing. The grants can also support foreclosure prevention activities. In addition, REACH Virginia resources support training for the statewide housing counseling network by enabling counselors to maintain existing certifications or earn new certifications to meet anticipated new HUD requirements.

02 Funding sources

Virginia Housing reinvests a portion of its net revenues into Virginia's communities through REACH Virginia.

03 Governance

Funding is available through a competitive grant process to local HUD-approved housing counseling

agencies and sub-grantees of HUD intermediaries doing business in Virginia. The application process consists of two levels of review, with the final decision made by Virginia Housing's Grant Leadership Committee.

04 Population served

Eligible applicants include HUD Approved Local Housing Counseling Agencies, HUD Approved Participating Housing Counseling Agencies, HUD-Approved Multi-State Organizations doing business in Virginia, or National intermediaries with Virginia branches. The agency must be in good standing with both the Virginia Housing HUD Housing Counseling program and previous Virginia Housing Counseling and Education Grants. Approved agencies must comply with the Virginia Housing Housing Counseling and Education (HCE) Handbook and the HUD Housing Counseling Handbook for service delivery.

05 How program works

This program offers a reimbursement grant that pays HUD Housing Counseling Costs related to agencies. The funding primarily supports salaries for direct services.

HUD's Housing Counseling program provides counseling to consumers on seeking, financing, maintaining, renting, or owning a home. The program also addresses homelessness through counseling and serves homeowners in need of foreclosure assistance. Counseling is provided by HUD-approved housing counseling agencies.

06 Program history

This program began in 2008.

07 Program highlights

- HUD Form 9902 data estimates that 20,625 households received housing counseling, the majority of group education programs were focused on

financial literacy (54%), while 19% were focused on homebuyer education.

- The largest share of one-on-one counseling was focused on pre-purchase/home buying counseling (465).
- HUD's Form 9902 reporting indicates that in FY 2020, the majority of households receiving housing counseling indicated their race as Black or African American (59%), with those indicating their race as white being only 24%. In terms of ethnicity, 15% reported being Hispanic.